Thar desert area, namely the districts of Barmer, Bikaner, Churu, Ganganagar, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Pali and Sikar. The expenditure on this programme which was shared equally by the Centre and the States during the Sixth Plan will be funded 100 per cent by the Centre during the Seventh Plan. The Seventh Plan outlay for the programme is Rs. 245 crores. The programme objectives are arresting desertification through sand dune stablisation, Shelter belt plantation and afforestation and developing the land, water, and livestock resources through schemes of minor irrigation, soil conservation and water harvesting, dry land farming, ground water exploitation and development of livestock, pastures and fodder.

(c) Since the inception of the special programmes an expenditure of Rs. 125.9 crores has been incurred in the 11 districts of Rajasthan, both under the earlier Drought Prone Area Programme and the later Desert Development Programme. Since the inception of the Desert Development Programme upto March, 1985, an area of about 61000 hectares had been treated under soil conservation, irrigation potential of about 3300 hectares created from minor irrigation schemes, 4184 tube wells constructed forest plantation raised over about 70000 hectares, shelter belt plantations raised over about 5700 hectares, sand dunes stabilised 8000 hectares, more than 26 lakhs plants distributed for farm forestry, 726 villages electrified, 3693 wells energised, 1803 dairy and 61 sheep breeding cooperatives organised.

Another major scheme started in the Thar desert is the Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojna. The integrated command area development of this project was started in 1974 and work of Stage I covering an area of 2.44 lakh hectares in Phase-I was completed in June, 1983, at estimated cost of Rs. 139 crores. The on going command area development of stage-I, Phase-II commenced from 1980 to cover an area of 2.46 lakh hectares at estimated cost of Rs. 93 crores. So far 5.77 lakh hectares of irrigation potential has been created of which utilisation is 4.15 lakh hectares, 7000 RKM of canal and roadside plantations, about 60000 hectares, of pastures and over 3000 hectares of fuelwood plantations have been raised. 908 Kms. of canal lining and water courses lining over 2.9 lakh hectares have been done. 324 kms. of major district roads and 431 kms. of village roads have been constructed.

According to the information received from the Government of Rajasthan, 644 hectares have been covered under irrigated plantation and 1950 hectares under pasture development upto March, 1985 on the left bank area of the main Indira Gandhi canal and it is proposed to develop about 50,000 hectares of silvi-pastoral plantation of which about 15000 hectares would be irrigated afforestation and 35000 hectares as dry pasture with perennial grasses.

.Violation of Quality Control Order by. M/s. Premier Irrigation Equipment Limited

2540. SHRI HARI SINGH NALWA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints regarding violations of the Quality Control Order and IS 1239 by a Calcutta based firm M/s. Premier Irrigation Equipment Limited; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to curb the violation and misuse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The complaints are being investigated to determine if there is any violation of the provisions of the Quality Control Order or Industrial Development Regulation Act.

Persons brought above poverty line up to October, 1985

2541. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have been brought above the poverty line from